

child pornography. As an ever-increasing percentage of Americans, and especially our young people, enter the information superhighway, it is critical that we act to ensure that this highway is not littered with the debris of child pornography.

The bill also directs the Sentencing Commission to assess the impact of these increased penalties and to report to Congress any necessary modifications in the law. The Sentencing Commission will also be required to survey the recidivism rates for those who commit sex crimes against children and analyze the effect of treatment for those offenders.

I commend my colleagues from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, and South Carolina, Senator THURMOND, for joining me in introducing this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management to review the coordination of and conflicts between the Federal forest management and general environmental statutes.

The hearing will take place Wednesday, April 26, at 9:45 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Mark Rey at (202) 224-2878.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to consider S. 537, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the House version of the bill, H.R. 402.

The hearing will take place Thursday, April 27, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Andrew Lundquist at (202) 224-6170.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet during the Thursday, April 6, 1995 session of the Senate for the purpose of conducting an executive session and mark-up on S. 565.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be permitted to meet on Thursday, April 6, 1995, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-215, to conduct a hearing on the consumer price index.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to hold a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 6, 1995.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 6, 1995, at 10:00 a.m. to hold a hearing on "the right to own property."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on The FDA and the Future of the American Biomedical and Food Industries, during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 6, 1995 at 10:00 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the subcommittee on Acquisition and Technology of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 1995, in open session, to receive testimony on the implementation of acquisition management reform in the Department of Defense in Review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 1996 and the future years Defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITIES

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that subcommittee on Securities, of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 6, 1995, to conduct a hearing on securities litigation reform proposals.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sub-

committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be granted permission to conduct a hearing Thursday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. on legislation to approve the National Highway System; issues related to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge; and the innovative financing of transportation facilities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MANY OBSTACLES TO BALANCING OF BUDGET

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the more thoughtful observers of the political scene through the years has been Melvin Brooks, now retired as a professor at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Recently, he had an op ed piece in the Southern Illinoisan, a newspaper published in Carbondale, IL.

He discusses the practical obstacles to balancing the budget and why it is important to the future of our country.

His concluding paragraph says it all: "Failure to balance Federal budgets without such an amendment appear almost certain and dreadful consequences of failure to pay as we go are virtually certain. Few people seem to realize how many shattering consequences are almost inevitable."

Mr. President, I ask that the Melvin Brooks op ed piece be reprinted in the RECORD.

The piece follows:

[From the Southern Illinoisan]

MANY OBSTACLES TO BALANCING OF BUDGET

(By Melvin Brooks)

The obstacles to balancing the federal budget are indeed formidable, some believe too formidable to overcome.

One key obstacle is the behavior of members of Congress, presidents, other politicians, and special interests seeking to influence national policies. Most members of Congress want to be re-elected, have good mental ability and are politically knowledgeable. They know (or at least think they know) how to obtain enough votes to get re-elected.

One way is to tell voters what they like to hear regardless of logical inconsistency, and by all means avoid disagreeing with the favorite prejudices of their constituents. This they do.

It seems like increasing majorities of candidates for Congress criticize big government and promise to make large reductions in government, reduce taxes, balance the federal budget, yet prevent any reductions in Social Security or in military expenditures in order to keep the United States strong.

This is, of course, an impossible combination and they know it. Yet they also know that if they omit some of these promises, opponents who make all of them are likely to obtain more votes.

They also know that if they support the policies desired by special interests, especially those strong in their districts or states, they are likely to receive campaign contributions which otherwise would probably be given to an opponent.